

S-455
Kitty Handy House
Upper Hill
Private

c. 1900

The Kitty Handy house stands out prominently in the historic black community of Upper Hill. Raised on an elevated brick foundation, the tall two-and-a-half story, cross gabled dwelling follows an architectural form common to Somerset County and Upper Hill. Built on a center hall/single-pile plan, the main block is extended to the rear by a two-story service wing. The construction of the house is estimated to date to the turn of the twentieth century. Pointed arch attic windows, narrow brick stove chimneys, open eave soffits, and two-over-two sash windows are features that reasonably place its construction around 1900.

Chain of title research, coupled with local oral history, document this house as the former residence of Kitty Handy. Officially recorded in a 1922 transfer of the property is Laura J. Handy, who purchased this house and one acre from William H. Adams.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: KITTY HANDY HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-455

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-455

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic LAURA HANDY HOUSE

and/or common KITTY HANDY HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 8154 Upper Hill Road _____ not for publication

city, town Upper Hill _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Maryland _____ county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	____ occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
__x building(s)	__x private	__x unoccupied	____ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	__x private residence
____ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	____ entertainment	____ religious
____ object	____ in process	__x yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
	__x not applicable	____ no	____ military	____ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John and Celestine Rasberry

street & number 12486 E. Amherst Circle telephone no.:

city, town Aurora state and zip code Colorado 80014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 249

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 389

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. S-455

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Kitty Handy house, also known as the Laura Handy house, is located at 8154 Upper Hill Road in the center of the historic black community of Upper Hill, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story three-bay, cross gabled frame house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dating to the turn of the twentieth century, this two-and-a-half story, three-bay single pile frame dwelling is supported on raised brick pier foundation sheathed with sheet metal covering. A layer of asbestos shingles cover the original weatherboard siding, and a sheathing of asphalt shingles cover the steeply pitched gable roofs. Attached to the back of the center hall plan main block is a two-story kitchen wing.

The east (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with the first floor sheltered by a single-story porch. The partially glazed front door is flanked by two-over-two sash windows. Lighting the second floor are three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows, and the cross gable is pierced by a pointed arch two-pane attic window. The eaves to the roof are extended and the rafter ends are exposed. Rising through the roof and flanking the center hall is a pair of single flue brick stove chimneys finished with corbeled caps.

The north and south gable ends are largely alike with single two-over-two sash windows centered on each floor, and a pointed arch two-pane window lights the attic. The bargeboard that trims the gable end is finished with a slight decorative cut-out finish.

Attached to the back side of the single-pile main block is a two-story, one-room plan kitchen wing supported on the same raised foundation. A single-flue brick chimney rises through the gable end and a single-story shed roofed addition extends from the south side.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-455

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Survey No. S-455

PS-2746

S-455
Kitty Handy House
8145 Upper Hill Road
Upper Hill, Somerset County, Maryland
Chain of title

249/389 Randolph Brawner
 Cecilia Brawner

to

2/14/1969 John Rasberry
 Celestine Rasberry

BLB 174/56 Edgar A. Jones, Attorney
 Alexander Sellers

to

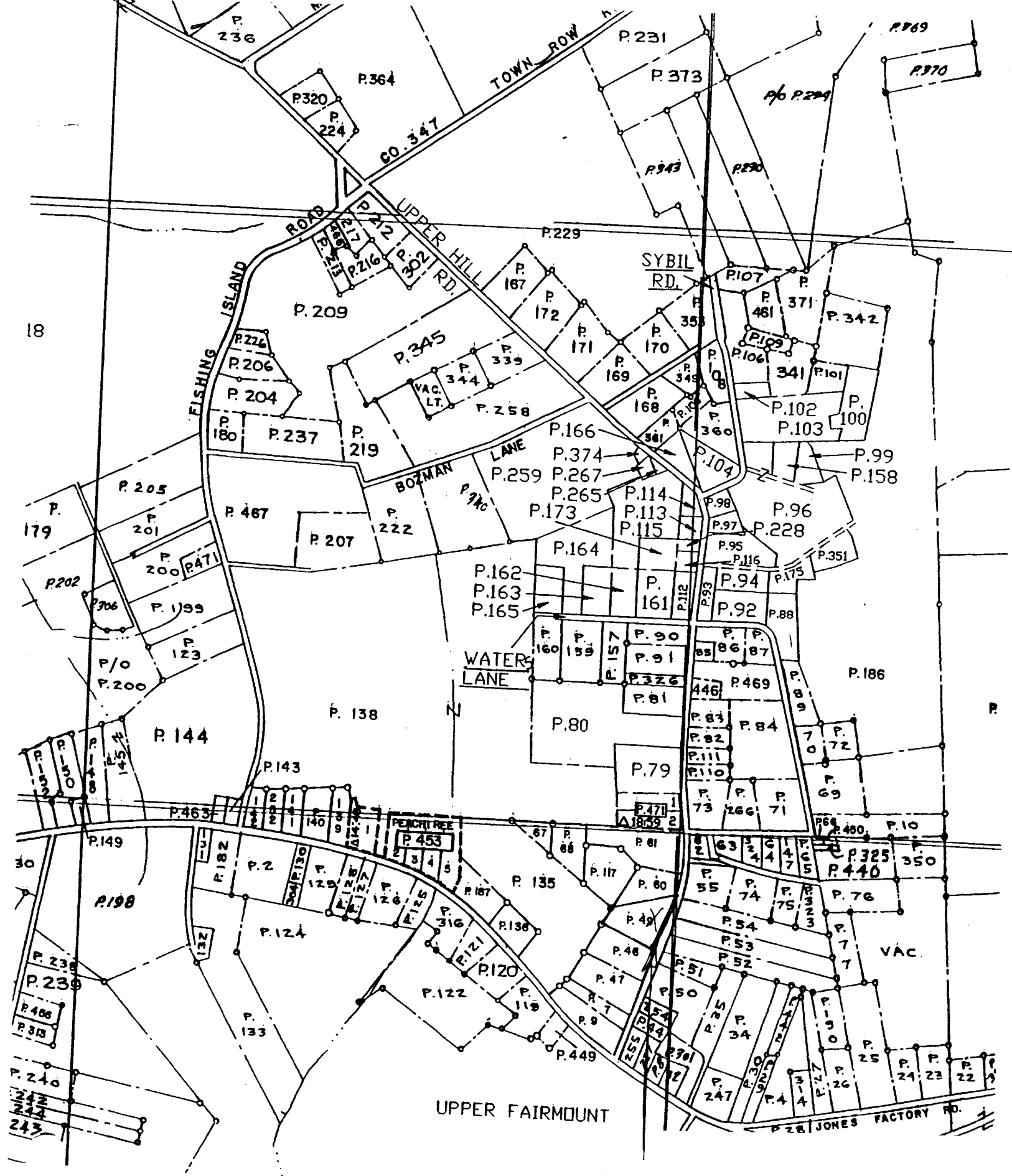
9/16/1955 Randolph Brawner
 Cecilia Brawner

WJS 87/203 William H. Adams

to

11/9/1922 Laura J. Handy
 1 acre

18

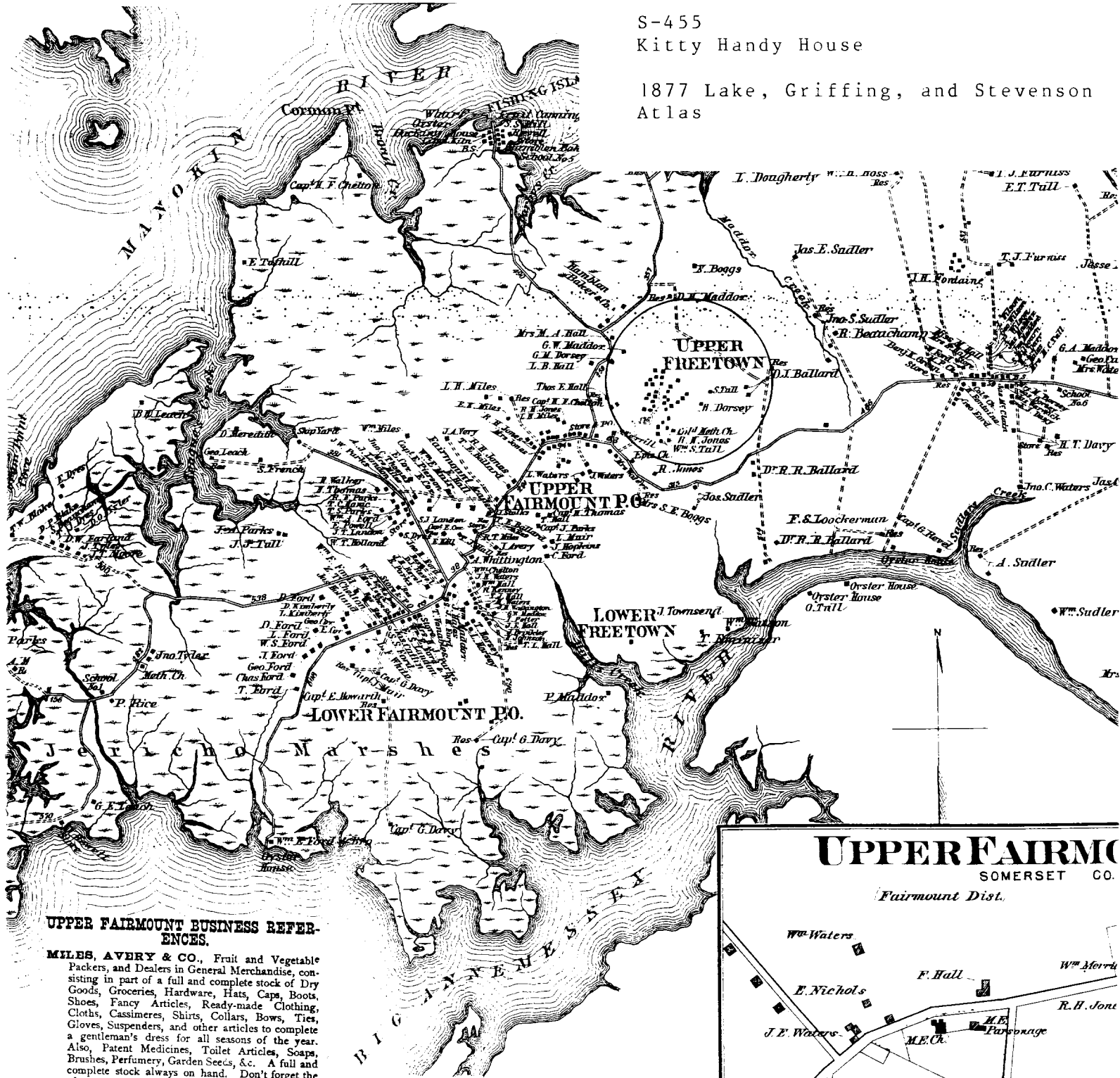


S-455
Kitty Handy House
Upper Hill, Somerset Co., MD

S-455

Kitty Handy House

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas

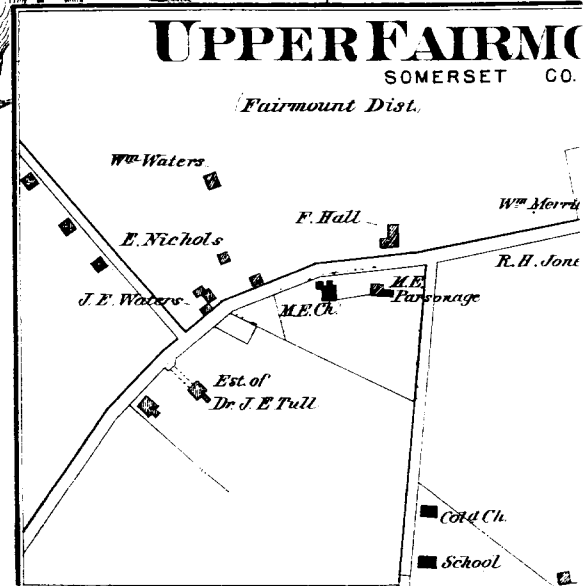


UPPER FAIRMOUNT BUSINESS REFERENCES.

- MILES, AVERY & CO.,** Fruit and Vegetable Packers, and Dealers in General Merchandise, consisting in part of a full and complete stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Fancy Articles, Ready-made Clothing, Cloths, Cassimeres, Shirts, Collars, Bows, Ties, Gloves, Suspenders, and other articles to complete a gentleman's dress for all seasons of the year. Also, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, Soaps, Brushes, Perfumery, Garden Seeds, &c. A full and complete stock always on hand. Don't forget the place, and give them a call.
- W. E. FORD & BRO.,** Oyster Packers and Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Hardware, and General Merchandise. Lower Fairmount.
- Dr. E. S. MILES,** Physician and Surgeon.
- E. K. GREEN,** Dealer in General Merchandise, such as Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Notions, and all goods suitable for a first-class country store. Westover.
- W. S. LONG,** Dealer in Hardware, Tinware, Groceries, Notions, &c. Store near Westover, Md.
- JOSEPH GILPIN** offers a fine farm of 410 acres for sale. Westover.

FAIRMOUNT

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MARION QUADRAI
MARYLAND-SOMERS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOI

5860 III NE
(MONIE) 429

430

47'30"

431

1 150 000 FEET

432

433

S-455
Kitty Handy House
8154 Upper Hill Road
Upper Hill, Somerset Co, MD

Marion, Maryland Quadrangle
1972





S-455

Kitty Harney House

Upper Hill, Somerset County, MD.

Southeast Excavation

5/95, Paul Toward, Pittsburgh

N.E. / MD Historical Trust

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